Alleged corruption in DRDO

†5117. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara', New Delhi on 16th April, 2002 under the caption, 'Na Sena Ki Madad, Na Desh Ko Fayada, Bhrashtachar Mein Dooba Raksha Anusandhan Vikas Sangathan';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no truth in the news report of 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 16th April, 2002 under the title 'Neither help to Army, nor beneficial to nation, corruption in Defence Research and Development Organisation'.

(c) Points raised in the news-item have been enquired into by HQrs Fact Finding Committee. Nothing adverse has been noticed by the Committee. However, the matter is also being investigated further by CBI, Dehradun branch.

Development to ammunition for 155mm Howitzers

5118. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Ordnance Factory Organisation failed to develop three out of seven types of ammunition of 155 mm Howitzers, which were supplied to them as far back as 1991—93;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop all types of ammunition of 155 mm Howitzers?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.